

From: Bill Barnhart
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/14/02 8:33pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

2113 Arrowhead Drive

Olathe, KS 66062

January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US DOJ

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to express my opinions on the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I do not believe the suit was fair to Microsoft to begin with. The Microsoft Corporation and its employees have attained their dominant status in the IT industry through hard work and innovation, not through a concerted and conscious effort to block the advances of competing software producers. Nevertheless, Microsoft was found to be in violation of antitrust laws and was brought to trial in the federal courts to answer for these violations. After three years of negotiation and mediation, Microsoft and the Department of Justice finally came to an agreement that would seem to be beneficial to Microsoft's competitors while at the same time allowing Microsoft to remain intact. Unfortunately, there are those who wish to see the settlement overturned and Microsoft destroyed. This is extreme.

Microsoft does not need to be rent asunder. The settlement has provided well for Microsoft's competitors. Microsoft has agreed to license intellectual property rights that fall under terms of the settlement to its competitors. Additionally, Microsoft will refrain from retaliatory behavior when software is put on the market that directly competes with Microsoft products. Microsoft will also not

enter into agreements wherein a third party is required to endorse Microsoft programs or products either at a fixed percentage or exclusively.

Mr. Ashcroft, I do not believe further litigation against Microsoft is either necessary or wise. The economy has suffered while Microsoft has been tied up in this suit, and the IT industry has likewise been stunted in its growth. Microsoft has, through this settlement, appeased the demands of justice. I urge you to let the settlement stand. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Barnhart

bill@barnhart.net